

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, which method comprises:

5 copolymerizing ethylene and vinyl acetate in a methanol solution to form an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer;

saponifying the copolymer in a methanol solution;

adding water to the methanol solution containing the copolymer saponified, thereby to prepare a mixture solution;

10 removing insoluble materials from the mixture solution; and

obtaining the copolymer saponified from the mixture solution from which the insoluble materials have been removed.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture solution  
15 is an aqueous methanol solution with a ratio of methanol to water in the range of 5 : 5 to 9 : 1 by weight.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer obtained has an ethylene content of at  
20 least 20 mol % but not more than 70 mol % and a saponification degree of at least 95 mol %.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the insoluble materials are removed from the mixture solution in which the concentration  
25 of the copolymer saponified is between 30 wt % and 60 wt %.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the insoluble materials are removed from the mixture solution at a temperature between  
55 °C and 80 °C.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the insoluble materials is at least one selected from a polyvinyl alcohol having a saponification degree of at least 95 mol % and a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer having an ethylene content of not more than 10 mol %  
35 and a saponification degree of at least 95 mol %.

7. A method for producing a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate

copolymer, which method comprises:

copolymerizing ethylene and vinyl acetate in a methanol solution to form an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer;

saponifying the copolymer in a methanol solution;

5 adding water to the methanol solution containing the copolymer saponified, thereby to prepare a mixture solution;

removing insoluble materials from the mixture solution; and

obtaining the copolymer saponified from the mixture solution from which the insoluble materials have been removed,

10 wherein the insoluble materials are removed from the mixture solution in which a ratio of methanol to water is in the range of 5 : 5 to 9 : 1 by weight; and

the saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer obtained has an ethylene content of at least 20 mol % but not more than 70 mol % and a  
15 saponification degree of at least 95 mol %.